In the Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously presented) A spoked wheel for a bicycle, comprising:

a) a rim having two sides joined together on a base;

b) a hub;

c) a plurality of spokes tensioned between the rim and the hub, each provided with a spoke attachment element for attachment to the rim; and

d) a plurality of seats formed as openings in the base of the rim, each seat to house one of said spoke attachment elements;

wherein the shape and size of the spoke attachment elements and of the seats of the rim are such that:

the spoke attachment element is suitable for taking up a first configuration in which its insertion through the seat is possible;

the spoke attachment element inserted in the seat is in a second configuration in which at least one of the sides of the rim prevents rotation of the spoke attachment element with respect to the seat due to contact between the spoke attachment element and the at least one side of the rim.

2. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 1, wherein a bridge extends between the two sides so as to define an inner chamber enclosed between the bridge, the sides and the base, the openings of the seats being formed in the base, open to the inner chamber.

3. (Original) The wheel of claim 1, wherein the spoke attachment element comprises:

a) a shank;

c) a head which is widened with respect to the shank; and

c) a contact plate provided with a hole;

wherein the hole in the plate is narrow enough to prevent the slipping of the head from the plate, and the hole is large enough to allow the plate to take on both an attachment position substantially perpendicular to the shank in the second configuration of the spoke attachment element, and an insertion position which is inclined with respect to the attachment position in the first configuration of the spoke attachment element.

4. (Original) The wheel of claim 1, wherein the spoke attachment element comprises:

a) a widened head formed on the spoke; and

b) a contact plate provided with a hole;

wherein the hole in the plate is narrow enough to prevent the slipping of the head from the plate, and the hole is large enough to allow the plate to take on both an attachment position substantially perpendicular to the spoke in the second configuration of the spoke attachment element, and an insertion position inclined with respect to the attachment position in the first configuration of the spoke attachment element.

5. (Original) The wheel of claim 3, wherein in the attachment position the shank is free to rotate with respect to the plate, about a longitudinal axis of the spoke.

6. (Original) The wheel of claim 3, wherein in the attachment position the plate cannot rotate with respect to the rim.

7. (Original) The wheel of claim 1, wherein the seat has an elongated shape.

8. (Original) The wheel of claim 7, wherein the shape of the seat is elongated in a transverse direction with respect to a circumferential extension of the rim.

9. (Original) The wheel of claim 3, wherein the head has a conical contact surface with the plate and the plate has a corresponding conical contact surface with the head.

10. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 3, wherein the hole in the plate has at least one notch for receiving an elongated portion of the spoke in the insertion position.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The wheel of claim 3, wherein the spoke attachment element of each spoke comprises a nipple, in adjustable screwing engagement with the

spoke, the nipple including the head and the shank and being coupled to the plate.

13. (Original) The wheel of claim 3, wherein the spoke attachment element of each spoke comprises a barrel, in attaching engagement with the spoke, the barrel including the head and the shank and being coupled to the plate.

14. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 3, comprising a sealing gasket in each seat of the rim, extending around each spoke attachment element, and extending along a portion of the spoke attachment element and through the opening in the second configuration.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The rim of claim 15, wherein the base and sides define an inner chamber enclosed between the bridge, the sides and the base, the

openings of the seats being formed in the base, open to the inner chamber.

19. (Previously presented) A spoke set for a bicycle wheel comprising:

a) a stem having a longitudinal axis; and

b) a spoke attachment element connected to the stem for attaching a spoke to a rim which includes two sides joined together on a base, said base including a joining zone with a plurality of seats therethrough;

wherein the spoke attachment element is suitable for taking up a first configuration in which its insertion through one of the seats of the rim is possible; and

wherein the spoke attachment element is suitable for being put in a second configuration in which at least one of the sides of the rim prevents rotation of the spoke attachment element due to contact between the spoke attachment element and the at least one side of the rim.

20. (Previously presented) The spoke set of claim 18, wherein the spoke attachment element comprises:

a) a shank;

b) a head which is enlarged with respect to the shank; and

c) a contact plate provided with a hole wherein in the second configuration, the plurality of seats is coaxial with the hole in the plate, the head, and the longitudinal axis of the stem;

wherein the hole in the plate is narrow enough to prevent the slipping of the head from the plate, and the hole in the plate is large enough to allow the plate to take on both an attachment position substantially perpendicular to a spoke in the second configuration of the spoke attachment element, and an insertion position inclined with respect to the attachment position in the first configuration of the spoke attachment element.

21. (Previously presented) The spoke set of claim 18, wherein the spoke attachment element comprises

a) a widened head formed on the spoke; and

b) a contact plate provided with a hole wherein in the second configuration, the plurality of seats is coaxial with the hole in the plate, the head, and the longitudinal axis of the stem;

wherein the hole in the plate is narrow enough to prevent the slipping of the head from the plate, and the hole in the plate is large enough to allow the plate to take on both an attachment position substantially perpendicular to the spoke in the

second configuration of the spoke attachment element, and an insertion position inclined with respect to the attachment position in the first configuration of the spoke attachment element.

22. (Previously presented) The spoke set of claim 19, wherein the shank is free to rotate with respect to the plate, about the longitudinal axis of the stem.

23. (Original) The spoke set of claim 19, wherein the head has a conical contact surface with the plate and the plate has a corresponding conical contact surface with the head.

24. (Original) The spoke set of claim 19, wherein the hole in the plate has at least one notch for receiving the stem of the spoke in the insertion position.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The spoke set of claim 19, wherein the spoke attachment element of each spoke comprises a nipple, in adjustable screwing engagement with the spoke, the nipple including the head and the shank and being coupled to the

plate.

27. (Original) The spoke set of claim 19, wherein the spoke attachment element of each spoke comprises a barrel, in attached engagement with the spoke, the barrel including the head and the shank and being coupled to the plate.

28. (Original) The spoke set of claim 18, comprising a gasket around each spoke attachment element, intended for sealing the seat of the rim where the spoke is mounted.

29-58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 1, wherein the base and two sides define an inside with a convex shape and an outside,

wherein the spoke attachment element does not extend outside of the rim in the second configuration.

60. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 3, wherein the head cannot pass within the contact plate.

61. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 3, in which the contact plate has a generally flattened shape with opposed faces separated by edges wherein in the second configuration, the side of the rim prevents rotation of the contact plate through contact between a contact plate edge and the rim.

62. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 61, in which in the second configuration, the contact plate edges are oriented generally parallel to the sides of the rim and the contact plate opposed faces are oriented generally perpendicular to the sides of the rim.

63. (Previously presented) The wheel of claim 62, in which in the second configuration, one of the opposed faces engages a joining zone that spans between the sides of the rim.